



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

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Contact: Scott Starr  
517-373-7708

## **Lapeer County may benefit from legislation**

**LANSING** – A Lapeer County official testified before the Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee this week in support of legislation that would ensure Community Development Block Grants for rural areas.

Mike Partlo, director of Lapeer County Community Development, testified in support of Senate Bill 353, sponsored by Sen. Jud Gilbert.

The legislation would focus a guaranteed portion of CDBG funds to Michigan's 62 counties that have a population under 90,000. Specifically, it would require the Michigan Strategic Fund to provide at least 60 percent of federal CDBG funds to rural areas.

"Lapeer County and other rural areas around the state are struggling because they have insufficient infrastructure to attract business," said Gilbert, R-Algonac. "This legislation will help bring the needed resources to attract companies and provide more jobs."

Further committee action on the bill is expected in the coming weeks.

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**A photo of Sen. Gilbert and Mr. Partlo testifying is available at:**

**[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/)**